

HERSETH SANDLIN SUPPORTS BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT

Requires Congress to Produce Balanced Budget; Key Component of Strategy to Restore Fiscal Responsibility

Washington, DC-Today, Rep. Herseth Sandlin joined with members of the fiscally conservative Blue Dog coalition in introducing legislation that would require the federal government to pay down the national debt and balance the budget by 2020 through a Constitutional amendment.

Rep. Herseth Sandlin said, "Every day, families across South Dakota live by common-sense rules that require them to balance their budgets and Congress can and should do the same. I'm proud to again support this balanced budget amendment, a critical part of our overall strategy to get our country's fiscal house in order."

Specifically, the balanced budget amendment introduced today would:

- Require Congress to produce a balanced budget every fiscal year.
- Require the President to submit a balanced budget in his or her annual transmission to Congress.
- Prohibit outlays for a fiscal year from exceeding total receipts for that fiscal year unless Congress, by a three-fifths roll call vote of each House, authorizes a specific excess of outlays over receipts.
- Provide seven years for three-fourths of the states to ratify the constitutional amendment.

From 1998-2001, the United States achieved balanced budgets through adherence to PAYGO, limits on discretionary spending, sensible tax policies and investments in smart, pro-growth policies. Forty-nine states currently require an annual balanced budget, and an amendment to the Constitution will finally hold the federal government to the same, common-sense standard.

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